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Message Text

SECRET

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70
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 010953
O R 101855Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 216
TO RUTAIJ/AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN 2539
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

S E C R E T LOME 0295

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, AO, TO, US
SUBJECT: EYADEMA'S REQUEST FOR USG ASSISTANCE TO ANGOLA

REF: (A) STATE 31037, (B) LOME 0271, (C) LOME 0243,

1. I WAS RECEIVED THIS AFTERNOON BY PRESIDENT EYADEMA WITHIN MINUTES AFTER I REQUESTED APPOINTMENT. MINISTER OF HEALTH COLONEL DJAFALO, WHO IS RANKING GOT OFFICIAL AFTER PRESIDENT, AND FONMIN HUNLEDE WERE PRESENT. PRESIDENT WAS CORDIAL AND FAIRLY RELAXED UNTIL I FINISHED MY PRESENTATION.

2. ASSURING PRESIDENT THAT USG FULLY APPRECIATES DELICACY OF HIS APPROACH TO US, I SAID USG IS DETERMINED TO SEE SOVIET AND CUBAN FORCES REMOVED FROM ANGOLA ON TERMS WHICH DO NOT RE-PRESENT ENDORSEMENT OF PRINCIPLES OF GREAT POWER INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFRICAN DISPUTE. I NOTED THAT, EVEN AFTER VOTE CUTTING OFF FUNDS FOR ANGOLA, CONGRESS CONTINUES TO STUDY AND HEAR TESTIMONY FROM SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ON ANGOLA PROBLEM. HAVING COVERED ALL POINTS REF (A), I ENDED PRESENTATION ON NOTE OF APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENT'S CONFIDENCE IN SHARING HIS CONCERNS WITH US, SAYING I HOPED PERSERVERANCE OF AFRICAN LEADERS LIKE HIMSELF AND DETERMINED EFFORTS OF MY OWN GOVERN-
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MENT WOULD LEAD ULTIMATELY TO SOLUTION ACHIEVED BY AFRICAN PARTIES

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THEMSELVES.

3. I SENSED PRESIDENT HAD EXPECTED MORE POSITIVE RESPONSE,
AND I EXPLAINED AGAIN ADMINISTRATION'S CONCERN THAT LEGISLATIVE
BRANCH HAD VOTED TO CUT OFF FUND FOR ASSISTANCE TO ANGOLA.
HE REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES AND IN SOME AGITATION: 1) THAT HE
WAS DISAPPOINTED, 2) THAT EVERYONE WAS ANXIOUS AND RECOGNIZED
US AS ONLY POWER TO STOP SOVIET UNION AND THAT IT WAS
UNBELIEVABLE WE WOULD NOT DO SO, AND 3) THAT ENTIRE AFRICAN
CONTINENT WOULD INDEED GO COMMUNIST IF CURRENT SERIOUS MILITARY
SITUATION NOT REVERSED. EYADEMA SAID SOVIETS WERE CAPABLE OF
ANYTHING AND THAT ONE DAY TOGO MIGHT FIND THEM SETTING UP
"THEIR MAN" HERE AS THEY WILL DO IN ANGOLA - THROUGH COUP
D'ETAT OR GOD KNOWS WHAT. HE WAS NOT IMPRESSED BY US
ADMINISTRATION'S CONTINUING EFFORT VIS-A-VIS CONGRESS. HE IS
CONVINCED IMMINENT DEFEAT OF FNLA AND UNITA WILL MEAN COMMUNIST
GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA. PRESIDENT IS NOT PERSUADED THAT NEGO-
TIATIONS AMONG THREE ANGOLA MOVEMENTS WOULD BE TO ANY AVAIL
BECAUSE, AS HE SEES IT, SOVIETS ARE ON TOP AND WILL ENSURE THAT
FIRST ANGOLA, AND THEREAFTER OTHER AFRICAN STATES, COME UNDER
THEIR DOMINATION. HE FEELS GUERRILLA WARFARE WOULD NOT HAVE
PRAYER OF CHANCE TO SUCEED.

4. PRESIDENT NAMED IN SUCCESSION OTHER POWERS, I.E. CHINA,
FRANCE, GERMANY AND GREAT BRITAIN, AND SAID THEY COULD DO NOTHING
UNLESS US INTERVENED TO PUT SOVIETS DOWN. I REVIEWED BRIEFLY
SECRETARY KISSINGER'S STATEMENTS TO SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS
SUB-COMMITTEE ON AFRICA ON JANUARY 29 ABOUT US RESPONSIBILITY
IN FACE OF SOVIET AGGRESSION WHICH VIOLATED SPIRIT OF DETENTE
AND THREATENED WORLD STABILITY. I LEFT WITH EYADEMA EXTRA COPY
OF THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT, WHICH HE SAID HE HAD ALREADY
READ, AS WELL AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELE'S STATEMENT OF
FEBRUARY 6, FRENCH TEXT OF WHICH WE HAD JUST RECEIVED. I PROMISED
TO CONVEY PRESIDENT'S COMMENT TO WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY.
NOTE: EYADEMA DID NOT MENTION, NOR DID I BRING UP, SOUTH AFRICA.

5. COMMENT: PRESIDENT EYADEMA CLEARLY IS UNABLE TO RECONCILE
SENSE OF URGENCY AND SPECTER OF SOVIET AFRICA WHICH HE AND OTHER
AFRICANS PERCEIVE WITH APPARENT USG INABILITY TO MOVE QUICKLY
IN MASSIVE RESISTANCE. EYADEMA'S TORMENT IS REMINDER THAT SENSE
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OF POWERLESSNESS WE HAVE SEEN BEFORE IN AFRICA IS STILL
ALIVE.
RAWLS

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